

REMARKS

Applicant notes the allowance of Claims 11-14 and 17.

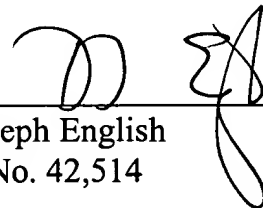
Claim 15 stands rejected as obvious over the patent to Phillips (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,809) in view of the patent to Wagal (U.S. Patent No. 4,987,007) and further in view of the patent to Wolfe (U.S. Patent No. 5,377,045).

Applicant has amended Claim 15 to specify an optical filter having a diamond-like carbon layer with the claimed surface roughness of less than 0.05 nm. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Examination and allowance of new Claims 18-20, dependent from allowed Claim 17 is solicited. No new matter has been added.

A further and favorable action and allowance of all claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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